

ask them today, was it worth it, you know what they would say.

But until you watch your own children grow up, you can't really know how proud your parents are of you today and how sure they are that all the sacrifices were more than worth it. No matter what else you accomplish in life, and many of you will accomplish a very great deal, your children will still matter most. We have to make sure that you and they get all the benefits of this fabulous modern world and still keep the enduring gift of your devotion and love.

As you journey into the new millennium, I wish you success and fulfillment at work and with your children.

Congratulations, good luck, and God bless you.

*[At this point, Dr. Steve A. Favors, president, Grambling State University, jokingly offered the President a faculty position after he leaves office.]*

**The President.** Let me say—I must say when I was invited to come back and teach and I was told all about the food and all the perks of the job and then the president said he wasn't serious, I was getting into this. *[Laughter]* I've got a good pension; I can work pretty cheap. *[Laughter]*

Let me say one thing seriously—I very much hate that I have to go back now but I have—as you know, we have got a lot going on overseas and it's 6 hours ahead there and I have to make a lot of phone calls today and do a lot of work, otherwise I wouldn't leave. I would like to stay here until midnight—not talk until midnight, just stay here until midnight. *[Laughter]*

This has been a wonderful thing for me. I have had a lot more fun than you have so far at this. I cannot thank you. I'm so proud of you. And I like looking out there and seeing your faces and your eyes and your self-confidence. And I want you to go out and do a great job with your lives.

Thank you. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:47 a.m. in Eddie Robinson Stadium. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. E. Edward Jones of the National Baptist Convention of America, who gave the invocation; Mayor John Williams of Grambling; Bobby J. Jindal, president, University of Louisiana System;

and Eddie Robinson, former head football coach, and former NFL Washington Redskins quarterback Doug Williams, current head football coach, Grambling State University. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

## **Proclamation 7200—Small Business Week, 1999**

*May 22, 1999*

*By the President of the United States of America*

### **A Proclamation**

From the Industrial Revolution to the Information Age, small businesses have powered the American economy and created much of our prosperity. Generations of entrepreneurs have found in small businesses an outlet for their creativity, the source of their livelihood, and a chance to share in the American Dream. Millions of American consumers have found in small businesses the innovative products and vital services they need to improve the quality of their lives.

Today, America's 24 million small businesses employ more than half our country's work force and generate more than \$16 trillion in revenue—more than 50 percent of our gross domestic product. Small firms are also a true avenue of opportunity for women and minorities, for older and younger workers, and for part-time employees and those formerly on public assistance. They provide 67 percent of working Americans with their first job and their initial on-the-job training in basic work skills.

My Administration is deeply committed to creating an environment in which small businesses can thrive. Through programs administered by the Small Business Administration (SBA)—such as the business loan guarantee program, the economic development loan program, the microloan program, the small business investment company program, and the disaster loan and surety bond programs—we have given small business owners access to financial assistance. Last year alone, the SBA guaranteed almost \$11 billion in loans to small businesses, provided technical and management assistance to almost a million people, and helped entrepreneurs compete

for more than \$33 billion in Federal contracts. Through tax relief and regulatory streamlining and by opening overseas markets and providing export assistance, we are helping America's small businesses compete successfully in the global marketplace.

The men and women who own and manage America's small businesses have made enormous contributions to the technological innovations, job growth, and prosperity we enjoy today. But those contributions cannot be measured in dollars and cents alone; entrepreneurs give back to their communities in myriad ways, making them better places in which to live and work. During Small Business Week, we have a special opportunity—and obligation—to acknowledge the achievements of small business men and women and to express our appreciation for the vision, energy, and effort they bring to their enterprises.

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 23 through May 29, 1999, as Small Business Week. I call upon Government officials and all the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs that celebrate the achievements of small business owners and encourage the development of new enterprises.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:04 a.m., May 25, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 26. This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 24.

## **Memorandum on the Palestine Liberation Organization**

*May 24, 1999*

Presidential Determination No. 99-25

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under section 540(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1999, Public Law 105-277, I hereby determine and certify that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive the provision of section 1003 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987, Public Law 100-204, through October 21, 1999.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

**William J. Clinton.**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 1, 1999]

NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 2.

## **Memorandum on New Tools To Help Parents Balance Work and Family**

*May 24, 1999*

*Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies*

*Subject:* New Tools to Help Parents Balance Work and Family

Since I became President, my Administration has worked hard to make sure that parents have the tools they need to meet their obligations at home and at work. I am proud that the very first bill I signed into law was the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Since 1993, the FMLA has allowed millions of Americans to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave—without fear of losing their jobs—to care for a newborn or adopted child,